

REMARKS

1. The Examiner's contention that the claims are not in proper form is believed to be incorrect. The steps of the claim are separated by semicolons, as is common practice.

2-4. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-14, 15, 18 are believed to be non-obvious over Brown et al '461 in view of Kelly, Jr. '168. Claim 1 as currently amended now recites in step B "and information as to whether the telephone associated with the number will be answered by a human voice or a digital voice", thereby clearly distinguishing the present invention from the cited art. The Brown '461 disclosure does not teach or suggest providing, in advance, how the telephone may be answered. Moreover, Brown does not suggest that his system SRS has the capability to distinguish between a human voice and a digital voice.

With regard to the Kelly '168 reference, the system is not provided information in advance with regard to a digital device answering the call. Claim 1 as currently amended provides the SRS with information as to what is expected when a reminder call is made. The prior art is devoted to determining that a machine answered a call whereas in the present invention, such information may be provided in advance.

Claim 15 has been amended in a manner similar to the amendment of Claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1 (currently amended) -3, 6-7, 10-14, 15 and 18 are not obvious in light of the prior art which does not teach or suggest the present invention.

5. Claims 1 (currently amended)-3, 6-7, 10-14, 15 (currently amended) and 18 are not obvious in light of Brown and Kelly previously cited and Pershan '986.

With respect to the Examiner's contention that Brown '461 teaches the method of Claim 2, Brown does not disclose any method to distinguish between the three digital voice technologies disclosed in Claim 2. The best Brown '461 can do is to broadly suggest that machines other than ordinary telephones can be used in the system without disclosing any means or methods to do so. Moreover, Brown does not disclose any means or methods that could be used to identify a specific technology.

With respect to the Pershan '986 reference, the delivery of messages to alternate phone numbers does not at all teach or suggest recognizing an "AAA" or "VMS"

answering a telephone and then "requesting by the SRS" the transferring of the call to another number as stated in Step 1.

The present invention, as recited in Claim 4, provides for more than simply transferring a call to another alternate number. There is nothing in the cited art wherein the prior art systems request the transferring of a call based upon the type of digital voice initially answering the call. Neither Brown '461; Kelly '168; nor Pershan '986 individually or in appropriate combination teach or suggest the present invention.

With respect to Claims 8-9, claim 8 is dependent on Claim 1 (currently amended) and no appropriate combination of the cited art teaches or suggests providing, in advance, information regarding whether the system will find a call answered by either a human voice or digital voice.

6. The additional prior art cited is noted.

Accordingly, Claims 1 (currently amended)-15 (currently amended), and 16-18 are not obvious in light of the cited art.

SUMMARY

It is important to understand that the present invention deals with the issues of digital voice answering and alternate number calling in a manner fundamentally different than the cited art.

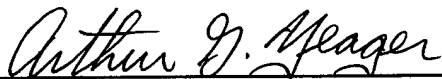
The user can indicate upon signing up for the service that certain of the numbers on the list created will be answered by a human voice and will require the SRS to request a transfer to an extension. The user can also indicate upon signing up for the service that certain of the numbers on the list will be answered by a Digital Voice via a Digital Voice System (DVS) and will require the SRS to request a transfer to an extension. In addition, the user can indicate that a certain number in the list will be answered by an answering service and if so the user will be required to indicate that this transfer request by the SRS be done in its own digital voice or by the use of DTMF digits. Further, the user can indicate that a certain number, after following the menu tree above, will be answered by a Voice Mail System (VMS) form of DVS and the SRS is to play the reminder message after the VMS answers the telephone call. The user can also indicate

that a certain number will be answered by a VMS or an Answer Machine form of digital voice. Finally, the user can further describe each number to be called on the list as having or not having some of the characteristics listed above.

The approach outlined above is far beyond anything taught or suggested by the cited art.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issue or to consider any changes to the claims recommended by the Examiner to render same more clearly definite or patentable over the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,


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